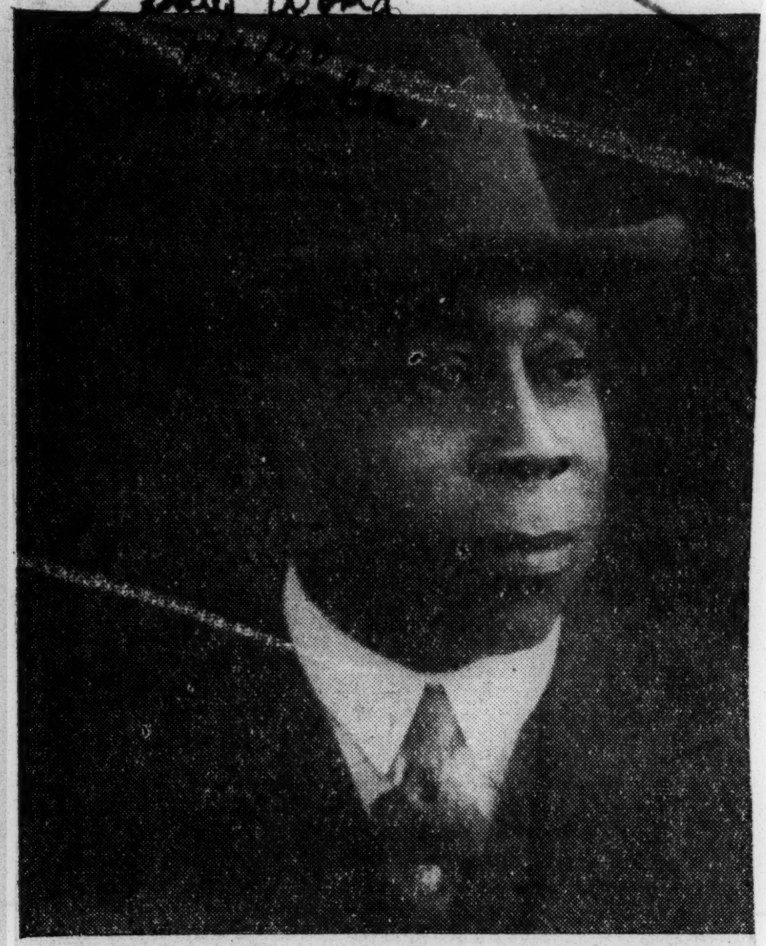
Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
December 5, 1940

BUILDING PERMITS $46,917

BESSEMER, Ala., Dec. 4—Building permits issued in Bessemer in November amounted to $46,917, A. W. Deason, building inspector, said Wednesday. Included in the permits were a Negro church for $18,000; two filling stations, $11,000; nine new residences, $11,750; three garages, $775, and 20 repair jobs, $5,392. The report was the best in several months.

HE HAS SERVED 32 YEARS

Daily World



Above is the photo of Mr. John C. Claybrook, whose 32-ye
of service the Arkansas World, and distinguished friends celebrate
this issue. Coming to the town Claybrook, Ark., which bears his na
driving a team of oxen in cart, 32-years ago, through service and sa
fice, he has built a virtual city out of what was then a forest. His frie
ship with the noted educator, Booker T. Washington, took him to T
kegee Institute, where he participated actively in the Annual Farm
Conference, and whenever called upon to help the school, he dona
liberally to the institution, with the view of helping his people. I
tinguishing himself in the class of a philanthropist, but with
statement always, "I'm simply trying to serve." —Photo by Hooks B

Race Blood Is Issue In $100,000 Cal. Will Case

OCT 26 1940

LOS ANGELES, Cal. — A $100,000 legacy case in which two Race members were bequeathed $11,000 took a strange twist this week in Superior court when attorneys, seeking to disqualify the heirs, claimed that Abigail Stark, white, who made the will, had Negro blood in her veins.

Defender

On these grounds, Mrs. Stark, who died November 15, 1939, would have nothing to will because she would not have been her father's legal heir under the California law. The Race members named in were a maid, and a porter. The maid was left $10,000 and the porter $1000.

Also named as beneficiaries under the will were Sam B. Smith, Edward Inch, A. J. Clark, Jane Green and her physician, Dr. Roland Cummings, all white. None of those named in the will was related to the deceased. The estate involved under the will to "give, demise and bequeath," is believed to amount to the sum of $100,000.

As a result of its size, 19 white contestants not named, have asked that execution of the will be withheld, and that they be named as beneficiaries since they are relatives of the deceased.

Dr. Cummings, white, who is the largest beneficiary under the will, immediately retained the law firm of Dockweiler and Dockweiler, prominent attorneys to resist the claim of the "heirs," on the ground that the mother of the deceased Abigail Stark, was of Negro blood and could not have been legally married to her father under the miscegenation laws of California, which would leave the issue of such a marriage an illegitimate child.

Chicago

Attys. Hugh and Gobert Macbeth, representing the interest of Charley Williams, 50, named in the will to receive $1,000, told reporters that the mother of decedant Abigail Stark, was the second wife of the late cattleman Robert E. Stark, and that the marriage took place subsequent to the passage of the state's miscegenation laws in 1854, therefore in view of the fact that she was of Negro blood, no marriage in fact was consumated. That left the child who was the late Abigail Stark, an illegitimate child.

Attorneys Macbeth further pointed out that the 19 white contestants could not claim any relationship to the late deceased, because they were all merely the descendants of the late Robert E. Stark and his first wife. It is upon this ground that Dr. Cummings through his attorney, Isadore B. Dockweiler, seeks to prevent the 19 white contestants from sharing in the benefits of the will.

OCT 26 1940

Meanwhile the Race lawyers in the case are seeking any colored relatives of the late decendant Abigail Stark, who lived for 69 years at 723 South Flower street, which has since grown into the heart of the downtown business district. The father of Katherine Stark, mother of the late Abigail was named George Danity.

Amsterdam News

RACIAL ISSUE IN WILL FIGHT

Charge Wealthy Woman Had Negro Blood; Many Claimants

OCT 26 1940

LOS ANGELES — Beneficiaries under the will of the late Abigail Stark, who lived for 69 years in a house that now is in the downtown district of Los Angeles, this week opposed the claims of 19 persons contesting Miss Stark's will on the ground that they were never legally related to the pioneer woman.

Miss Stark, in a will dated 13 days before her death last Nov. 15, divided a part of her estate among a number of friends and acquaintances and left the residue to Dr. Roland Cummings, who attended her in her last illness.

New York

The estate, including the property where Miss Stark lived at 723 South Flower Street, has been appraised at $71,000.00 but Attorney Rufus Bailey, for the 19 contestants contends that the assets will total much more.

Included also as beneficiaries were Mrs. Daisy Carter, colored nurse and Mr. Charlie Williams, colored bootblack who were bequeathed $10,000.00 and $1,000 respectively. Mr. Williams is represented by Attorneys Hugh E. Macbeth and Robert E. Macbeth. Mr. Williams who has also filed a crediter's claim for personal services rendered Miss Abigail Stark for the past several years, testified in his deposition as to his acquantance and services to the deceased, and various conversations with her during her lifetime. He testified that she stated she did not have any relatives of her own, and that her mother, who married a white man, was herself of "mixed blood."

N. Y. Times

Dr. Roland Cummings, principal beneficiary of the estate, which includes undeveloped downtown property, is attempting to show that Abigail Stark was an illegitimate child because her mother was a Negro and not legally married.

PROPERTY- 1940

COLORADO

Heirs Get $75,000 From Lumber Man

PUEBLO, Colo., April 12—The estate of William Dukes, lumber man who died February 25, was estimated last week to be valued at nearly $75,000 when the will was admitted to probate in county court.

Although the exact value of the estate is not yet known, it is believed to be one of the largest filed in Pueblo recently and the administratrix, Mrs. Anna L. Nelson, a daughter, was bonded for $75,000.

Mr. Dukes, who operated a lumber business, left one specific bequest of $3,000 to his grandson, Paul Dukes Jr.; $200 each to six half-brothers and half-sisters, and the balance of his estate to his widow, Mrs. Ella Dukes, and their children: Anna L. Nelson, Pueblo; Mattie Belle Fort, Birmingham, Ala; Cora A. Jones, Pueblo and Paul Dukes, Cleveland.

Housekeeper Gets Large Share In Estate of Late S. H. Dudley

The will of Sherman H. Dudley, 66, well known theatrical figure, who died last week, was filed for probate and record on last Thursday. The will was dated January 29.

Under the terms of his will he gives to his son, Sherman H. Dudley, Jr., and his granddaughter, Miss Shirley Dudley, the premises at 1217 Sixth Street, Northwest, and 1223 Seventh Street, Northwest.

The premises at 1223 Seventh Street, Northwest, are to remain under the management of Samuel Graham, for a period of five years.

During this period, Mr. Graham is to collect all rents and make such disbursements as he feels necessary. He is to receive a salary of $40 per month. He is directed to make periodic reports to Charles S. Cuney and George E. C. Hayes.

All his show paraphenalia and the residue of his estate is left to his son and his granddaughter.

To his granddaughter is left a small solitaire diamond ring.

To Mrs. Carrie Calloway is left the Dudley Apartment, 1316 U Street, Northwest; his farm, known as the Dudley Farm, Oxon Hill, Md., and a large diamond ring. Mrs .Calloway has been Mr. Dudley's housekeeper for the past 15 years.

His office furniture is left to Samuel Graham.

Charles S. Cuney and George E. C. Hayes are named as executors in the will.

PERFORMERS, SHOW GIRLS, MUSICIANS MENTIONED IN WILL

WASHINGTON, April 11—Gifts ranging from $10 to $400 in cash were left chiefly to relatives and show folks by Charles W. Roman, eccentric, known as "Chicken Charlie" to patrons of his rendezvous for performers and musicians across Wiltberger street from the stage door of the Howard theater.

Oswald Garrison Villard, noted editor of The Nation, weekly liberal, national magazine, heads the list of personages whom 'Chicken Charlie's' remembered in his will. He bequeathed him $50.

'Fats' Waller, celebrated entertainer, who was a habitue of 'Chicken Charlie's' whenever he came to Washington, whether for an engagement of one week at the Howard or for one night to play for a boatride down the Potomac, was left $25.

Other showfolks to whom bequests were made include Bardu Ali, former director of Chick Webb's orchestra; Joe Jones, drummer with Count Basie's orchestra; Bobbye Starks, trumpet player with Chick Webb's orchestra; Dick Wells, musician, $25 each.

Clarence Smith, a musician with Blanche Calloway's orchestra, and Sandy Williams, trombone player with Chick Webb's orchestra, were left $10 each.

Show girls who share in his will are: Edna Taylor, soubrette at the Howard; Isadore Price and Mae Fortune, chorus girls at the Howard, and Ristina Banks, formerly a Howard chorus girl. They were left $25 each.

Other bequests were made to Mrs. Rosa Roman, widow of his deceased brother, $50; Lisha Ratliff, sister-in-law, $400; Smith Roman Jr., $300; Clara McGowan's children, $10 each; Wilson Roman, a nephew, Chicago, $100; John Steele, nephew, Chicago, $50.

Henry Roman, half brother, Memphis, $50; Rumsey Roman, half brother, Chicago, $50; Mrs. Charles J. Moore, $200; Carrie McGowan, Chicago, $50; Marie Kite, an attendant at his establishment, $50; Lisha Reed, aunt, $100; Anna Lee, attendant at establishment, $25; Mrs. Isadore Robinson, $25.

Dr. John Williams, $25; Beulah Parker, $25; Clara Roman, $100; Fred Bradna, $25 and Mrs. Edna Roman, $200.

'Chicken Charlie' bequeathed all of his books to Manassas Industrial Institute, Manassas, Va., where he once attended school. The residue of his estate goes to Mrs. Edna Roman.

In the event his estate should prove insufficient to pay all legacies, he directed Edward P. Lovett, an attorney, whom he appointed executor of his estate, to pay them proportionaly.

No appraisal of his estate was filed, but it is believed that it is more than sufficient to pay these legacies. His will, filed for probate last Friday, was dated December 11, 1939.

$78,000 Left As Cemetery Co. Dissolves

75-Year-Old Group Must Move Bodies, Distribute Money

WASHINGTON—Following dissolution last week of the Colored Union Benevolent Association — a cemetery company incorporated in 1865—$78,000 to be left remaining debts went up before the District Court for audit. Principal claimant was George E. C. Gertman, white attorney for the company, to whom $10,000 will be paid.

Gertman is credited with converting the burial property of the association into $103,000 during 14 years as counselor for the trustees. He has also argued five suits, including one in the Court of Appeals, for which he has been paid $1,500.

An allowance of $5,000 was made for the removal of bodies to Woodlawn cemetery and for distribution among 82 beneficiaries.

——A Colored Judge——

Cold, Cold Ground

SIR: Your readers might be interested in knowing that there is a practice and custom in the South of depriving Negroes of their property through subterfuge. In many communities of the South, Negroes own property which becomes enhanced in value by either a real-estate development or expansion of business areas.

In many cases Negro property owners refuse to sell their property for low prices and, in other cases they are not requested to sell.

But through coöperation with local tax officials, the Negroes owning the property are not given tax bills on their property. The owners, most of whom are unfamiliar with legal procedure, believe that they have to get a tax bill before they can be held liable for taxes.

When they do not receive those tax bills they do not pay their taxes. Others inquire about the tax bills and are either not given any information or are put off with the statement that "everything is all right."

When the taxes are past due and are in arrears for the statutory period, the property is quietly sold at a tax sale without notice to the owners. The Negroes are not notified until after the statutory period of redemption has passed. They are then forced to leave the property.

This method is almost completely within the letter of the law although it violates the spirit of the law. Statutes differ in the several states. The Negro owners seldom consult a lawyer until after the period of redemption has passed after which time they are without legal redress.

THURGOOD MARSHALL,
Special Counsel, NAACP

New York City

82 Heirs Will Share in Proceeds from Sale of 75-year-old Cemetery

Final steps in the dissolution of the Colored Union Benevolent Association, an organization chartered on March 3, 1865, for the purpose of maintaining a cemetery, took place this week.

Cash proceeds amounting to $78,000 was up before the District Court auditor, A. Leftwich Sinclair, to pay remaining debts and be distributed among some eighty-two heirs or descendants of the original charter members.

Hearings on the case began, Monday, and were continued this (Thursday) morning. The principal claim considered was that of $10,000 by George C. Gertman, white, attorney representing the trustees. At Monday's hearing, none of the interests involved offered objections to his claim.

Mr. Gertman reported that he had succeeded in converting the burial property of the association into $103,000 during his fourteen years as attorney for the trustees, had successfully defended five suits in the lower court, one in the Court of Appeals, but had received only $1,500.

The auditor, A. Leftwich Sinclair, has the case under advisement. The next step towards distributing the net proceeds for the sale of burial grounds owned by the association to those recognized as heirs or descendants of the sixteen original incorporators, will be the fixing of the auditor's fee, and incidentals connected with the litigation.

Incorporated in 1865

The association was authorized on March 3, 1865, by an Act of Congress for the purpose of providing a burial place for the incorporators and members of their families.The group purchased property on what is now Adams Mill Road and in Anacostia. In 1889, the ground was discontinued as a cemetery and the health officer permitted no more bodies to be buried there.

After several unsuccessful attempts to dissolve the association, Congress by another Act of March 4, 1923, authorized the dissolution of the Colored Union Benevolent Association. Whitfield McKinlay, Harry A. Clark, and George Emmons were named trustees.

The trustees made numerous efforts to sell the property until 1929, when the Government bought two tracts, paying $790.50 for one, $25,084. for the other. This land involved was on the extreme west of the tract of the Adams Mill Road and adjoining the National Zoological Park.

The remainder of the association's property was sold for $78,000, with an allowance of $5,000 for removal of bodies from the old burial plot. It is this money which will be distributed among the eighty-two interested persons who are scattered along the Atlantic coastline, the majority being in Washington.

129 Bodies Removed

According to a report to the auditor, W. Ernest Jarvis, undertaker, has been paid $5,000 for the removal of bodies from the plot and is ready to move any others discovered. Mr. Jarvis made 390 openings and located 129 bodies. These were reinterred in the Woodlawn Cemetery, 4700 Benning Road, Southeast.

The original sixteen incorporators of the association include:

Andrew Carroll, Gillis Key, Henry Logan, James H. Lewis, James F. Herbert, Hamilton Martin, James H. Wright, Charles Shorter, Joseph Shorter, Charles Wilson, Anthony Hickman, John E. Dorsey, Hillery Davis, Sandy Jackson, Henry Brooks, and Isaac Clark.

Descendants Represented

Among their descendants or heirs present at the hearings represented by council were:

Belle Zora Brooks Penn, Gladys Harris, and Henry Lancaster, represented by Miss Etta Taggart; Mary L. Jennings, Ruth Wright, Maria Syphax, and Ella Payne, represented by Miss E. C. Harris; Susie Claytor, represented by D. E. Clarke; estate of Sophia W. Busey, represented by Joseph Fitzgerald, Jr.;

For heirs of Gillis Key, by Fred J. Rice; for Brainerd H. Warner, Jr., by Jerome F. Barnard and Ernest F. Henry; for heirs of Gurden Snowden, Lindsay Muse, Dennis Orme, William B. Ingram, Edward O. Young, John H. Brent, Charles P. Tinney, and Forrester Young, by Henry Lincoln Johnson, Jr.;

For Joseph W. Lewis and Sarah Jane Clarke, by George A. Parker; for Eva Wright Nichols and J. A. Sims, by Charles S. Cuney.

First Case in 1903

The first recorded efforts to dissolve the association occurred on August 24, 1903, when William A. Gordon filed suit; On August 24, 1904, William Gordon and his brother, J. Holdsworth filed; then on January 6, 1913, William G. Johnston filed. All failed.

On June 26, three years after the authorization by Congress, Harry A. Clarke, now deceased, filed a complaint against Mr. McKinlay and Mr. Emmons, the other trustees, to have the case closed. Judge Stafford dismissed the case and told them they needed an attorney and Mrs. Gertman was retained at that time.

Dyson Loses Appeal

The next legal action to bob up was the suit in January 1927, filed by Harry A. Dyson, attorney, representing the Sophia Busey interests, filed complaint, contending that only the original sixteen incorporators should participate in the proceeds of the property, but that all persons, who had bought lots or owned graves should also participate.

The case was taken to the Court of Appeals where a ruling against him by the lower court was sustained. Then in 1928, heirs of John Quincy Adams, former United States President, filed saying that the property of the association belong to them on the theory that the use for which it had been obtained was terminated and the title should revert to the original owners. This action was also lost.

Story Of Late Dana A. Dorsey Reveals That Florida Had A Negro Millionaire

Miami Builder, Who Died Several Weeks Ago, Had School and City Park Named After Him—Flags At Half-Mast and Business Places Closed Doors During Funeral Services.

MIAMI, Fla., Mar. 28—Like a chapter from a fiction story is the life and death of Dana A. Dorsey, millionaire builder and developer of this State, who died several weeks ago.

Known as Dixie's most progressive realtor, this man, who was born in Brooks County, Ga., in 1885, achieved prominence and wealth almost unheard of. His early days were spent in Fernandina and Palatka, Fla. In 1897, he came to Dade county and moved into the Miami area in 1899. It was from this swampland, infested with mosquitoes, that Dorsey conceived his vision . . a dream vision which was to later pay him handsome dividends.

For many years, the late Dana Dorsey was rated in the million-dollar class, owning extensive properties and being credited with having made sound and solid investments during and after the great Florida land boom.

SCHOOL, CITY PARK WERE NAMED AFTER HIM

The Dorsey high school and the Dorsey city park were named in his honor. Always active in religious, social, business and political life of the community in which he lived, he had made large contributions to parks, schools, and shortly before his death, to a public library. For a number of years he was chairman of the colored school board. His vast property holdings, including hotels and apartment buildings, are scattered over every corner of the country.

In many sections of the city, flags were flown at half-mast on the day of his funeral, and for hours school children, parents, the proletariat and the professional, passed by his bier, as his body lay in state, to pay their final tribute.

During the funeral services, attended by 2,000, with countless other thousands outside, the business places of Washington Heights were closed.

He is survived by a wife, Rebecca, and a daughter, Dana Agusta. Two sisters, Mrs. Clementine Gandy, Miami, and Mrs. Martha G. Henderson, of Orlando, and a brother, Colonel Livingston, of Jasper, Fla., also survive.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
August 3, 1940

Foster-Daughter Of Miami Negro May Get $150,000

[The Associated Press]

MIAMI — A 6-year-old negro girl, Susie Augusta Dorsey, appeared yesterday to be the sole heir to a fortune of more than $150,000 left by her foster parents.

The foster mother, Rebecca Dorsey, died of heart disease Thursday, five months after the death of her husband, D. A. Dorsey, a leader in Miami's negro community.

Dorsey left extensive real estate holdings and personal property, the widow serving as administratrix.

Neither left a will, and papers filed in Probate Court leading to the appointment of an administrator said the adopted daughter was the only legal heir.

The foster mother was survived by a brother and a sister here and another sister in Orlando.

Stealing Negro Property

There are lots of mean and ugly rackets in the United States, but surely one of the meanest is that described by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in The New Republic last week. In several states in the South, white men are systematically conspiring to steal the property of Negroes. The representative of the Nordic race gets his eye on a piece of Negro-owned property that he wants. He quietly arranges with local officials that no bill for property taxes shall be sent to the Negro owner. Many people in the South, whatever their color, believe that taxes are not due until the bill has been received, and therefore make no effort to pay. If the owner sees through the trick and calls at the tax collector's office, he is put off with an evasion.

At the proper time—everything is extremely legal!—the property is secretly auctioned off for a few dollars to the white instigator of the plot. The Negro owner knows nothing of it until half a dozen armed white men appear on the property and force him to leave on a few hours' or even a few minutes' notice. The New Republic knows of one case where a Negro who was ill was dumped out on the roadside.

One of the states where this device is being practised is Florida, which depends so greatly on the money brought in by winter tourists from the North. It seems to us that the state's reputation for honest dealing would be worth more than the petty bribes local tax officials can get from such dirty business.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
August 21, 1940

Stealing Negro Property

[*The New Republic*]

THERE are lots of mean and ugly rackets in the United States, but surely one of the meanest is that described by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in the *New Republic* last week. In several States in the South, white men are systematically conspiring to steal the property of Negroes. The representative of the Nordic race gets his eye on a piece of Negro-owned property that he wants. He quietly arranges with local officials that no bill for property taxes shall be sent to the Negro owner. Many people in the South, whatever their color, believe that taxes are not due until the bill has been received, and therefore make no effort to pay. If the owner sees through the trick and calls at the tax collector's office, he is put off with an evasion.

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SUING RAILROADS FOR QUARTER MILLION

Claiming that he has been permanently injured for life as a result of being in the "City of San Francisco" train wreck August 12, 1939, near Harvey, Nev., James E. Gravely of Chicago is suing the Chicago Northwestern Railroad Company, Union Pacific and Southern Pacific for $250,000. He is seen here in consultation with his lawyers. Left to right: Attorney Houston H. Hall, Attorney M. Ray Grubbs (standing) and Mr. Gravely.

Teacher Leaves $40,000 Savings To White Schools

CHICAGO, March 1 (ANP)—Th: will of Miss Rachel A. Hargrove a retired teacher in the public schools in Illinois last week revealed that she had left her $40,000 estate to four white schools in Illinois. The school Knox College. Wheaton College Aurora College and Northwestern university are to receive $20,000, $5,000 and $15,000 respectively.

Miss Hargrove, who died Feb. 18, at the age of 75 had taught 20 years in the Froebel and 15 years in the Corkery elementary schools here. Her attorney, Adelor Petit, Jr., white (?) said she had no relatives and picked the schools as the ones she most wanted to help.

Retired Teacher Leaves $40,000 To 4 Colleges

Miss Rachel A. Hargrove, retired teacher in the Chicago public schools, who died here Feb. 18, left her $40,000 estate to be used for college scholarships in her will which was filed in Probate court Monday. Miss Hargrove, who was 75 years old, taught 20 years in the Froebel and 15 years in the Corkery elementary schools. She resided at 2340 West 23rd street.

Her will left $20.000 to Knox college, $5,000 to Wheaten college, $5,000 to Aurora college and the remainder in trust for Northwestern university. Miss Hargrove had no relatives, Atty. Adelor Petit Jr., stated, and picked those schools as the ones she would like most to help.

BOND COUNTY OIL LEASES

16,000 Acres In Promising Field Opened to Negroes for Investment Through Efforts of Attorney Vaughn

The Prairie State Oil and Gas Company, headed by Mr. R. F. Anderson of Clayton, Mo., is offering for sale seventeen sixty-fourths of a 320 acre tract on which an oil well is being drilled near the town of Ayess in Bond County, Illinois, and the inhole of another tract surrounding this drill block of 1347 acres, through a selling syndicate with which Attorney Geo. L. Vaughn has made connection.

The oil leases which are being offered for sale are in Lagrange township. This township adjoins Mulberry Grove township in which the Shell Oil Company holds leases on a tract nine miles long and from two to four miles wide. Bond County lies in the center of the north portion of the great Illinois Oil Basin, about twenty-five miles from the Salem-Centralia pool in Marion county, which has been called the second greatest oil production area in the world.

Oklahoma City Oil Men Strike Million Dollar Gusher In Illinois Pool

Eighteen Months Fight, Jail, Lawsuits Ends In Victory For Horn and Faulkner

Well Shows 1,200 Barrels Per Day

FAIRFIELD, Ill.—This little town in the heart of the Illinois oil basin, 116 miles southeast of St. Louis, was in a mild state of excitement Sunday. Not that it was extraordinary for a new oil well to be tapped in these surroundings where more than 600 have sprung up since the first was uncapped in 1935, but the fact that three Negroes were at the helm of the latest gusher in Wayne County where not a single member of their race lives.

Thus the mayor and a crowd of several hundred whites were out to Flander's Lane two miles west of the city Sunday when the Horn, Faulkner and Scott gusher blew Sunday with an output of 1200 barrels a day. It marked the first well successfully drilled by Negroes in America's newest oil field and the completion of a story of one of the most dramatic struggles in the annals of the crude oil industry.

Began In 1939

Combining the sagacity of shrewd traders in the keenest business of capitalists and the skill, fortitude and courage of experts vieing for a prize stake in a highly technical field against the competition of powerful industrial organizations, they triumphed.

Horn and Faulkner came from Oklahoma where they had made $30,000 or more in the oil brokerage business and cast their considerable money on the oil lot in the new boom center. It was April 6, 1939 that they started operation at Fairfield. They picked out the lease on the narrow strip of ground on the Flander's farm which had been ignored or passed up by the Pure Oil and Carter Oil companies whose wells dot the surroundings. Then followed discovery of bright prospects for the plot which brought opposition in every form, lawsuits, jail confinements, labor disputes and financing troubles. But Horn & Faulkner stuck to their guns and with the financial aid of Scott, a Chicago business man, won out.

The one-fourth mile strip on which the new well is located is now conceded to be one of the most valuable pieces of land in the state. The partners turned down an offer of $250,000 for it Saturday and proceeded to dig their second well. To them the prospect of wealth is a thrill but, seemingly, their greatest satisfaction is in having succeeded in making a strike.

Hope To Inspire Race

"We wanted to succeed because we feel that it will show the Negro youth that they can achieve in the oil business if they want to and try hard enough," they said. "We wanted to verify the faith that our backers had in us. We want to put some economic control into the hands of the race, for that means independence more than anything else. "Negroes can get what they want, they have fine cars galore. Let them have faith in themselves and attempt things that mean economic advancement for the race."

Both Faulkner and Horn were unassuming and ordinary as if they were not the newly rich that they were as they received the congratulations of the oil field men. They wanted no glamour or show about it, but more to assure that they were just plain fellows like others, who without the advantage of even a college education but with determination reached the goal for which they set out. Here is an account of the success of these men as they recounted it to your representative of the St. Louis Argus.

O. L. Faulkner is 35 years old, born in Mississippi and single. L. H. Horn is 37, was born in Texas and is married; Harvey Scott is a middle-aged Chicago business man and is married and has two children. Both the former are Masons, (Faulkner 32nd degree), and members of Baptist churches, the NAACP, the Negro Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma City and civic movements. Mrs. Hazel Horn, a charming Oklahoma City teacher, is the wife of Horn.

Their oil activities began in Oklahoma when they worked for different companies in assembling leases. During their duties they acquired knowledge about the oil fields and the operations of the oil well industry. In 1932 following the bank panic they came together in partnership and set up an office of their own after being laid off their jobs. They were quite successful in their leasing and brokerage business establishing a modern office at 326 1-2 E. 2nd St. In 1934 they sent the entire high school band to Chicago where they made some valuable contacts, one with Scott. After accumulating a fair sum in trading they quit to go in buying and selected the Illinois field.

Faced Difficulties

They came to Fairfield Feb. 9, 1939. While looking for leases to buy, they picked up the strip of land set aside for years as a farm outlet road to the highway. Then began trouble that lasted until the time they blew the rich well last Sunday.

Major oil companies were said to have spent huge sums to put obstacles in their way and run them out from drilling the well. They were charged with many and various offenses including the operation of a confidence game. They were put in jail time after time and held from two to 65 days at a time. During the time, Faulkner read law books in his cell. He appeared as his own attorney when his lawyer failed to show up and won a directed verdict in the only case tried, in several started against

They ran into financial difficulties and their operations ceased. They held their lease, however and a few weeks ago started drilling again. Faulkner acted as his own geologist with so much expertness that he did not miss an oil marker. Two weeks ago they cored what appeared to be a productive looking Aux-Vasse formation. Then they ran into labor difficulty and fired their entire crew who threatened to junk the hole. They drilled on, and Tuesday of last week at 3085 feet struck 11 feet of AuxVasse. They also took 14 feet of McClosky saturated lime out. Indications were that it was one of the best sand wells in the basins. For a week the two partners slept in the field by the well as they were having so much trouble. Then Sunday came the great day.

Find Wealth

The strip of land which was bought for $1750 by the partners and was once in the hands of Jack Spangler foreman of the toolpushers drilling the well who has had 32 years experience in the oil fields, is expected to prove worth in the neighborhood of a million. The first well is now pouring out $1,200 worth of crude oil a day. Several others will be drilled on the strip and the partners hold another lease estimated to be worth a quarter of a million.

It took 38 days to drill the well with three crews of five men working constantly at a cost of $300 a day. The expense of the drilling, including the litigations involved was estimated at $26.000.

RESIDENCE IS DESTROYED BY SUNDAY BLAZE

Defender

Razed Building, Home Of Mrs. Annie Malone, Was Show Place

1-24-40

Fire, the origin of which has not yet been determined destroyed the palatial home of Mrs. Annie Malone, founder and head of Poro college, 4411 South Parkway, Sunday morning.

For four hours firemen battled the blaze, which Poro officials say did damage estimated at $50,000. Mrs. Malone and two other members of the household, Mrs. Mattie Wade and Mrs. Amy Johnson were forced to flee in the sub-zero weather when Erma Neal, the janitor, discovered the blaze in the basement. He turned in the alarm but firemen were hampered in getting a start because of frozen pipes.

The fire started in the boiler room and quickly spread up the dumb waiter to the roof. A high wind carried the flames to other parts of the building and very soon the entire home was afire.

Col. John Robinson, who headed the royal air forces of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia several years ago, was one of the first persons to enter the burning building. With a corps of NYA boys from an adjoining building he was able to save the personal belongings of Mrs. Malone. He was nearly overcome by smoke and had to be given first aid by neighborhood physician.

Fire Draws Crowd

The news that Poro college was burning down drew thousands of church-goers to the scene. But when they discovered it was Mrs. Malone's home, they watched firemen fight the flames, then continued on.

Mrs. Malone's home was one of the show places of Chicago. It was here that Miss Marian Anderson, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Mrs. Hallie Q. Brown, and Miss Nannie Burroughs made their headquarters while in Chicago.

Poro Founded in 1900

Mrs. Malone moved into the house in July 1930 after making Chicago the headquarters for Poro college. There are four buildings. One is leased to the government for the National Youth Administration and the remaining two are now used exclusively for Poro operations.

Poro college was founded in 1900 by Mrs. Malone when she lived in Lovejoy, Ill. Later she moved to St. Louis and during the World's Fair the business boomed and today

TRAIN PORTER WHO WON SWEEPSTAKES DIES; LEFT $30,000

CHICAGO, Feb. 8 (ANP)—An estate of $30,000 was left, the bulk of it to his wife, by Royal E. Spurlark Pullman porter who won $75,000 on an Irish sweepstakes ticket in 1938, when he died at the age of 60 on Jan. 19 following two major operations.

Estimate of the estate was made by Atty. William H. Temple who filed Spurlark's will for probate Thursday. He said the porter paid a tax of $19,000 on his winnings and purchased several annuities. The winner continued working until his illness as he was near retirement age and expected to receive a pension.

His widow, the former Albertine Pickens, noted in stage circles, was married to him last Dec. 8. She was his second wife. His son, Royal Spurlark, Jr., a law student at a local university, is understood to have had several tiffs with Mrs Spurlark during the latter stages of his father's illness and after his death.

R. S. Abbott's Will Is Filed For Probate

Daily Record

3-10-40

CHICAGO—(A N P)—Naming as executors and trustees Mrs. Edna Abbott, widow, John H. Sengstacke, nephew, and James B. Cashin, lawyer, the will of the late Robert S. Abbott was filed Thursday in probate court.

As trustees, the executors are to manage the estate except certain personal property left Mrs. Mrs. Abbott under terms of the will. Net income from this estate, to be known as a "trust estate," is to be divided in the following manner: one-third to Mrs. Abbott, and two-thirds proportioned equally beteween Mr. Abbott's two sisters, Miss Rebecca Sengstacke, Mrs. Eliza McKay and his nephew, John Sengstacke.

According to terms of the will, the estate is to be kept intact until John Segstacke reaches the age of 45 when it may be divided in the plans set up by Mr. Abbott. The will stated:

"It is my wish and desire that the Robert S. Abbott publishing company continue to own and publish the newspaper known as The Chicago Defender." The trustees voted to do this under the same plan which has been executed during the past several yars.

John Sengstacke, formerly acting head of the company, was appointed chief executive officer and will continue also as general manager.

INVADE RICH ILLINOIS FIELD

Eighteen Months Fight for Victory Is Won by Three Negroes

By RICHARD A. JACKSON

FAIRFIELD, Ill., May 12.— This little town in the heart of the Illinois oil basin, 116 miles southeast of St. Louis, was in a mild state of excitement Sunday. Not that it was extraordinary for a new oil well to be tapped in these surroundings where more than 600 have sprung up since the first was capped in 1935, but the fact that three Negroes were at the helm of the latest gusher in Wayne County where not a single member of their race lives.

Thus the mayor and a crowd of several hundred whites were out to Flanders Lane two miles west of the city Sunday when the Horn, Faulkner and Scott gusher blew Sunday with an output of 1200 barrels a day. It marked the first well successfully drilled by Negroes in America's newest oil field and the completion of a story of one of the most dramatic struggles in the annals of the crude oil industry.

Began In 1939

Combining the sagacity of shrewd traders in the keenest business of capitalists and the skill, fortitude and courage of experts vieing for a prize stake in a highly technical field against the competition of powerful industrial organizations, they triumphed.

Horn and Faulkner came from Oklahoma where they had made $30,000 or more in the oil brokerage business and cast their lot in the new boom center. It was Apr. 6, 1939 that they started operation at Fairfield. They picked out the lease on the narrow strip of ground on the Flander's farm which had been ignored or passed up by the Pure Oil and Carter Oil companies whose wells dot the surroundings. Then followed discovery of bright prospects for the plot which brought opposition in every form, lawsuits, jail confinements, labor disputes and financing troubles. But Horn and Faulkner stuck to their guns and with the financial aid of Scott, a Chicago business man, won out.

The one-fourth mile strip on which the new well is located is now conceded to be one of the most valuable pieces of land in the state. The partners turned down an offer of $250,000 for it Saturday and proceeded to dig their second well. To them the prospect of wealth is a thrill but, seemingly, their greatest satisfaction is in having succeeded in making a strike.

Hope To Inspire Race

"We wanted to succeed because we feel that it will show the Negro youth that they can achieve in the oil business if they want to and try hard enough," they said. "We wanted to verify the faith that our backers had in us. We want to put some economic control into the hands of the race, for that means independence more than anything else. "Negroes can get what they want, they have fine cars galore. Let them have faith in themselves and attempt things that mean economic advancement for the race."

Both Faulkner and Horn were unassuming and ordinary as if they were not the newly rich that they were as they received the congratulations of the oil field men. They wanted no glamour or show about it, but more to assure that they were just plain fellows like others, who without the advantage of even a college education but with determination reached the goal for which they set out. Here is an account of the success of these men as they recounted it to your representative of the St. Louis Argus:

O. L. Faulkner is 35 years old, born in Mississippi and single. L. H. Horn is 37, was born in Texas and is married; Harvey Scott is a middle-aged Chicago business man and is married and has two children. Both the former are Masons, (Faulkner 32nd degree), and members of Baptist churches, the NAACP, the Negro Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma City and civic movements. Mrs. Hazel Horn, a charming Oklahoma City teacher, is the wife of Horn.

Their oil activities began in Oklahoma when they worked for different companies in assembling leases. During their duties they acquired knowledge about the oil fields and the operations of the oil well industry. In 1932 following the bank panic they came together in partnership and set up an office of their own after being laid off their jobs. They were quite successful in their leasing and brokerage business establishing a modern office at 326½ E. 2nd St. In 1934 they sent the entire high school band to Chicago where they made some valuable contacts, one with Scott. After accumulating a fair sum in trading they quit to go in buying and selected the Illinois field.

Faced Difficulties

They came to Fairfield Feb. 9, 1939. While looking for leases to buy, they picked up the strip of land set aside for years as a farm outlet road to the highway. Then began trouble that lasted until the time they blew the rich well last Sunday.

Major oil companies were said to have spent huge sums to put obstacles in their way and run them out from drilling the well. They were charged with many and various offenses including the operation of a confidence game. They were put in jail time after time and held from two to 65 days at a time. During the time, Faulkner read law books in his cell. He appeared as his own attorney when his lawyer failed to show up and won a directed verdict in the only case tried, in several started against him and his partners.

They ran into financial difficulties and their operations ceased. They held their lease, however, and a few weeks ago started drilling again. Faulkner acted as his own geologist with so much expertness that he did not miss an oil marker. Two weeks ago they cored what appeared to be a productive looking Aux-Vasse formation. Then they ran into labor difficulty and fired their entire crew who threatened to junk the hole. They drilled on, and Tuesday of last week at 3085 feet struck 11 feet of Aux-Vasse. They also took 14 feet of McClosky saturated lime out. Indications were that it was one of the best sand wells in the basins. For a week the two partners slept in the field by the well as they were having so much trouble. Then Sunday came the great day.

Find Wealth

The strip of land which was bought for $1750 by the partners and was once in the hands of Jack Spangler foreman of the toolpushers drilling the well who has had 32 years experience in the oil fields, is expected to prove worth in the neighborhood of a million. The first well is now pouring out $1,200 worth of crude oil a day. Several others will be drilled on the strip and the partners hold another lease estimated to be worth a quarter of a million.

It took 38 days to drill the well with three crews of five men working constantly at a cost of $300 a day. The expense of the drilling, including the litigations involved was estimated at $26,000.

WEALTHY NEGRO DIES; TOWN SHOCKED TO FIND HE WAS NOT A WHITE MAN

HARTFORD CITY, Ind—A color line which had existed for thirty years was found to have been cheated when this prejudice-ridden community realized that one of its most outstanding citizens who died last week was a Negro.

The deceased was George D. Stevens, 80, president of the Fort Wayne Corrugated Paper Company whose dark skin was attributed to suntan by the many neighbors and friends who knew him. When local industrialists attended his funeral however, they were shocked to learn he was not a member of their race.

It was revealed that the wealthy philanthropist and community leader who had donated more than $50,000 to charity and who was worth more than a quarter of a million, had left his family early in life and worked his way up from the menial job of hotel porter to become one of the most influential manufacturers in the section.

Among the prominent men who attended his funeral was C. W. Seiberling, the tire magnate, a boyhood classmate of Stevens'. The deceased man had been a member of the Rotary Club, Elks and Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite at Fort Wayne.

women. After several years with the corporation, Stevens was made one of its directors.

When local white industrialists attended his funeral at Akron, Ohio, however, they learned with a shock that their business associate and close friend was a member of the race which they arrogantly brand as "inferior."

It developed that the wealthy civic leader and "prince among men," who left a fortune of $150,000 for the charitable and educational institutions of his native city, Akron, left his family early in life, and advanced from hotel porter to one of the biggest manufacturers in this section.

First Citizen In Jim-Crow Town, Negro

HARTFORD CITY, Ind.—This is the story of a Negro who was accepted as a human being by the prejudice-ridden "best white people" in a jim-crow town where Negroes were not even permitted to stay after sundown.

For 30 years George Stevens was this city's popular resident, sought out and cultivated by the same snooty rich whites who had barred the city to members of his race. He lived in the city's leading hotel, and was chief mechanical and consulting engineer of the Fort Wayne Corrugated Paper corporation, a powerful concern which bars Race employees save as porters and scrub

WIDOW, CHILD SEEK $53,000 IN SETTLEMENT

Say White Agent Killed Kin During Argument Over Sick Claim

DEC 28 1940

LOUISVILLE — (ANP) — Mrs. Helen Sartin and her daughter, Bertha Lee Sartin, a former student of Kentucky State college, filed joint suits in the Louisville circuit court here last week seeking damage of $54,000 from James M. Murrell, white, and the American Life and Accident Insurance company as the result of the death of Henry Sartin on October 10. He was killed in his home by Murrell, an agent for the American Life.

At the time of the shooting the widow had been ill in bed for several weeks when the agent came to pay the sick claims. He contended that she was not entitled to the number of claims which she sought. When the husband agreed with his wife, the white agent became angered and shot the husband who was sitting in a chair unarmed. Sardin died a few minutes later at the city hospital.

On December 16 the grand jury indicted the agent for murder, and shortly afterward the widow and daughter through Charles W. Anderson Jr., Prentice Thomas and E. K. Walker, attorneys, instituted suit seeking damages. Colored insurance companies throughout the country have taken considerable interest in this case, and civic organizations of Louisville are backing the attorneys in both the criminal prosecution and civil action.

Suit For $400,000 Estate Discloses Racial Mixture

By LEON LEWIS

NEW ORLEANS—(A N P)—Numerous claimants as rightful heirs to the $400,000 estate of Marie Louise Lavalde, who died in Cincinnati sometime ago, find it difficult to discard the fact that Miss Lavalde was of Negro descendancy.

The prominent white Cherbonniers of Baltimore and New York, making a claim for seven-tenths of the fortune, are faced with facts showing that not only was Louise Lavalde a descendant of a Negro but they, themselves, are descendants of Dr. Pierre Ovide Cherbonnier, one of the founders of Johns Hopkin hospital, who, according to correspondence be-

Prove Heir Was of Negro Descendancy

tween Thomy Lafon and himself admits to be Thomy Lafon's nephew.

Thomy Lafon was a New Orleans philanthropist termed as a free man of color. Edward Lavalde, Sr., illegitimate brother of Thomy Lafon, left New Orleans in youth and established residence in Baltimore where he married Almance Blache. They bore two children, Edward, Jr., and Marie Louise.

Edward Jr., was founder of Cincinnati Stock exchange and chamber of commerce. When he died his accumulated fortune was left to his sister, Marie Louise. Neither ever married. Records disclose that Marie Louise Lavalde had a paternal grandmother, the sister of Modeste Fourcher, who was the mother of Thomy Lafon and Edward Lavalde, Sr.

New Orleans claimants, mostly Negroes, to one-third of the $400,000 estate, claim a relationship to Marie Louise Lavalde and Thomy Lafon and point to a common ancestor, Julie Brion. Records show her of Negro descent and all of her children proving the grandmother and great-grandmother of Marie Louise Lavalde.

The Cherbonniers claim relationship to Marie Louise Lavalde through their grandfather, Dr. Pierre Ovide Cherbonnier, admitted nephew of Thomy Lafon. The Cherbonniers are one of the "blue blood" families on the east coast of Maryland.

The colored claimants of New Orleans contend that the nearest heir to Lavalde extends from the Burel family, which is the same family name of Louise Lavalde's great grandmother and from the Fourcher family, the same family name of the mother of Thomy Lafon.

They are all descendants of Josephine Fourche, a sister to Modeste Fourche, the mother of Thomy Lafon, who was the uncle of Dr. Pierre Ovide Cherbonnier the grandfather of the Baltimore and New York Cherbonniers.

The case is being argued almost daily in Cincinnati courts where the Cherbonniers of Baltimore and New York, leading white faction and the Burels, Despinasse, Thelmer, Pizero, Blache and Laraparu families of New Orleans are making claims.

Wills $11,000 To Maid And A Chauffeur

The Plain Dealer
Kansas City, Kan.
NOV 15 1940

DETROIT, Mich.—Miss Rose Collins, 8623 Oakland Avenue, has been bequeathed $10,000 by her late employer, Miss Anna Moore, whom she served in the capacity of maid.

Miss Moore's estate has been estimated at $300,000. In addition to the bequest to her maid, Miss Moore left $1,000 to her chauffeur, Leroy Thompson, also of this city.

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Chicago Ill.
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Negro Wins $1000 Verdict Against White Estate

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 15 (ANP)—Walter Hickman, about 70, who five years ago quit farming to "look after" his white neighbor, J. F. Sullivan, then 82, was ordered paid $1,000 out of the dead man's estate by the Supreme Court here Monday.

It was brought out that Sullivan, a widower, had only an adopted son who was employed on road construction work which kept him away much of the time. He needed an attendant and servant to help him get about and work the garden when necessary. So he turned to Hickman who sold his livestock, wagon, etc., and quit making further crops on his 10 acre farm to take care of the white man.

When Sullivan died at 87, the heirs contended Hickman was not due anything as there had been no written agreement. Many witnesses called testified to the value of Hickman's services, but only two set any figure. The court adopted one, $200 a year for the five years.

LABORER WHO FOUND MONEY SUES POLICE

Joseph Johnson Asks for Writ of Replevin to Recover $12,700

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Joseph Johnson, the 70-year-old laborer who found $12,700 in gold certificates while wrecking an old building three weeks ago, has filed a replevin suit seeking to recover possession of the certificates.

The suit was filed December 27 by Attorney James D. Pouncey through Emmitt Scott, Johnson's agent through power of attorney.

In the suit, Johnson asserts that the money which he found on December 18 was wrongfully and illegally taken away from him by members of the police department.

He asks the court to grant him recovery of possession of the money.

In addition, Johnson asks $5,000 damages against Shook and the other defendants for taking the money and for detaining Johnson without charge.

Johnson names as defendants in the suit Edgar Shook, Russell Greiner, George Fisk and Milton Schweiger, police commissioners; Bryce B. Smith, former mayor; L. B. Reed, chief of police, and Sergeant Ira Johnson.

Close in January Term

The case has been set for the January term of the Jackson county circuit court.

Johnson, working for the Bond Wrecking company, found a box containing $12,900 imbedded in a brick wall of the old Wyatt home at 717 Tracy avenue. Police found and questioned Johnson about the money when a woman next door to the Wyatt place reported that she saw Johnson put the contents of two sacks into his pocket. Johnson said that he had given the money to a friend, Mrs. Katherine Williams, 1519 Troost avenue, for safekeeping. Approached by officers, Mrs. Williams said that she had entrusted the money to Bishop William F. Taylor of the Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ.

The money was recovered at Bishop Taylor's home and was impounded by Federal Judge Albert L. Reeves to the custody of Chief of Police Reed.

Johnson's suite, filed through Mr Scott, is for the purpose of regaining possession of the money from Chief Reed.

Cites Statute

Johnson bases his claim to possession of the money on the Missouri statute which states that the finder of lost or unclaimed property has a right to possession of the money until the orignial owner could establish his claim; and that if the rightful owner could not establish his claim or did not establish his claim within one year, the money would vest in the finder.

Attorney Pouncey has written a letter to the secretary of the U. S. treasury asking for a final decision as to the right of the police department to take possession of the money.

Pouncey says in his letter, "I understand that the United States district attorney's office of the Western district of the western division of Missouri has obtained an order from one of the judges of the U. S. district court for the western district of the western division of Missouri to impound these certificates under the monetary act of 1933. There is no evidence that these certificates have been hoarded and the original owner of these certificates is unknown. The evidence shows at this time that these certificates were lost prior to 1933. Therefore, I cannot see under what theory of the law the United States federal court would have jurisdiction or the treasury department would have any right or claim to these ceretificates under the monetary act of 1933 other than that the treasury department can call these gold certificates in for exchange for other money, currency or silver."

Charles Wyatt, nephew of the late L. H. Wyatt, one-time owner of the house where the money was found, also plans legal action to get possession of the money, claiming that it was placed among the bricks in the wall by his uncle.

$10,000 Diamond Repays Man for 11 Days in Jail

Eleven days spent in jail last Summer as an innocent man had their reward for John T. Brown, 31-year-old Negro porter, recently when the police turned over a small fortune to him in the form of a large diamond that has been valued at $10,000, it was learned yesterday.

Mr. Brown, who lives at 31 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, was held in custody from last Aug. 6 to 17, when both the police and Magistrate William A. Farrell in Felony Court were not convinced by the porter's story that he had found the diamond. But the police property clerk never received any claims for the unset six-carat stone. On Feb. 6, when the six months required for the holding of found property were up, the diamond was returned to Mr. Brown.

Relatives Contesting $50,000 Bequest To Banker's Negro Cook

City-wide interest was focused upon an impending court battle which involved the bequest of $50,000 to a Negro domestic by her deceased banker-employer.

The contest was caused by the will of the late Clifford Pulver Hunt, vice-president of the Chemical Bank and Trust Company, who died December 15, 1939, who died at the age of 63, beneficiary of one of three large bequests was Mary Frances Elizabeth Whitman of 474 Lenox avenue, New York City.

The suit was instituted by Percy Pulver of Manasquan, N. J., a cousin of the late Mr. Hunt who charges undue pressure was brought to bear on the deceased man to cause him to draw such a will.

Surrogate James A. Delehanty has set May 6 as the date for the hearing of objections in the case.

Harlem Junk Dealer Leaves Over $55,000

Officials Seek Kin of Jamaican Soldier of Fortune

NEW YORK CITY—(ANP)—Heart failure claimed Burnett T. Madden, 54-year old Harlem odds and ends merchant this past week. Police investigating the death were amazed to find evidence that the supposed penniless man was worth a fortune estimated at $55,000.

Search has been started for relatives of the man who came to this country from Kingston, Jamaica 30 years ago after traveling extensively in foreign lands as a member of a crack military outfit of West Indians.

His one and only friend, Herbert Boulin, detective agency head, could shed no light on the mystery of the dead man's life.

Madden dropped dead at the feet of Boulin in the junk store conducted by him on the East Side. Boulin said he had met the man in England 35 years ago. In checking over his effects, police found one bank book showing $11,000 in deposits, $22,000 in government bonds and several gold watches. A large safe found in the rear of the store is believed to contain more money.

DISAPPOINTED IN LOVE

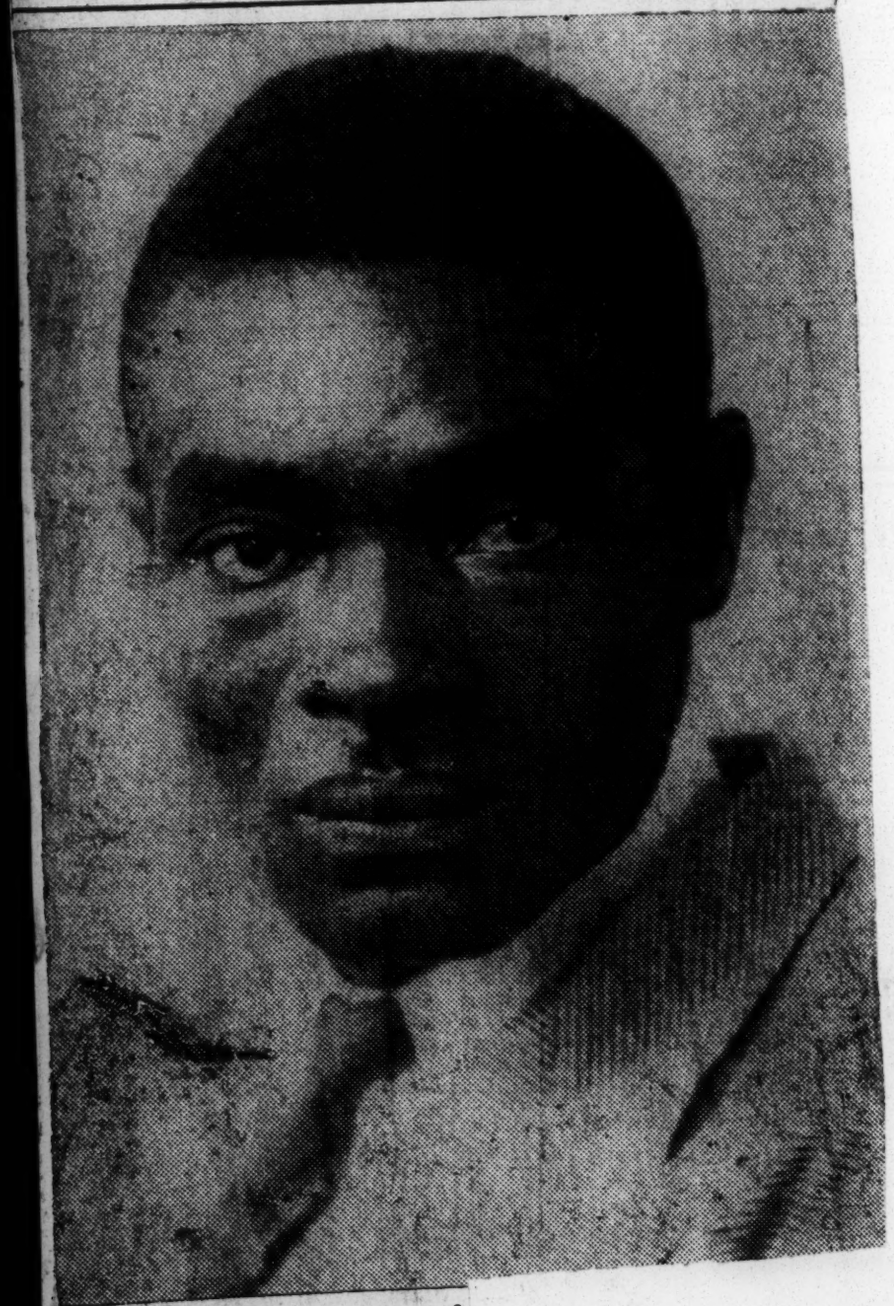
Coming to Harlem in 1910, Madden found work as a garage helper and worked up to a rooming house owner a few years later. Marrying a former Bettie Hardnic of Chicago in 1917, he sought and obtained an annulment when he learned his wife was the mother of two children although she had denied the fact when they married. He later learned she married Antonio Rojas of Chicago without getting a divorce.

Losing confidence in all women, Madden sold his rooming house and started a push cart business. He rented a store on the East Side of Harlem, filled it with merchandise of every description and it is believed it was from the resale of this stock that his fortune was made.

He made no friends. Curiosity seekers mill around the store where police are on guard. His body awaits claimaints in the city morgue.

Hickory, N. C. Record
August 15, 1940

Undazzled By Wealth



Notified that he is the winner of $5,000 prize money in the Irish sweepstakes, Clyde Maddox, above, negro employe of the Hickory street department, declared today he intends to hold on to his job and invest his new wealth in safe securities. He stoutly denied rumors that he had contracted for expensive automobiles and other luxuries.

PROPERTY- 1940

OHIO

Cleveland Man Inherits Part of $500,000 Estate

Kansas City Kansas
Call 4-5-40

CLEVELAND.—Benefitted by the largest fortune ever bequeathed by an American Negro, Paul Dukes 35, will receive his share of an estate valued at close to a half-million dollars. This estate was left by William Dukes, owner of the Dukes Lumber and Coal company in Pueblo, Colo., father of Paul.

Paul Dukes is a county courthouse clerk here, is married and the father of one child.

The gigantic estate was amassed by the elder Dukes through many business ventures. He settled in Pueblo in 1924 after having lived in Birmingham, for many years. He was a native of Kentcky. He had owned a saw mill near Anniston, Ala., where he employed both Negroes and white. While at this place he established rural schools —seeing the need of education.

When he moved to Birmingham he entered the retail lumber business, but moved to Colorado following the illness of one of his daughters.

In Colorado, Dukes continued his phenomenal success. He entered the lumber and coal business in which he was engaged until he died at the age of 78.

He was a member of the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, of the Lincoln Home Board of Directors and was a member of the Bethlehem Baptist church. He contributed during his life time to Tuskegee Institute and the community fund.

Surviving Dukes are his widow, Mrs. Anna L. Nelson, and Mrs. Cora A. Jones of Pueblo and Mrs. Mattie B. Fort of Birmingham, daughters; Paul Dukes, a son, of Cleveland; and two half-brothers, John and Joseph Robinson of Cleveland.

No accurate estimate of the estate has been made as it has not yet been offered for probate.

2 Coal Shovelers And Barber Started From "Scratch", Yet Became 3 Of Wealthiest Men

Owned Large "Fleet" Of Rafts, $10,000 Worth Of Stock In Columbia Bridge Within 5 Years

By KENTON JACKSON

Ben Franklin walked down the street with a loaf of bread under each arm. A woman laughed at him.

Stephen Smith and William Whipper walked down the street with a bag of coal under each arm. Women laughed at them, but none wanted to marry them at the time.

"Marry a coalman? Why, I should say not," the guffawing ladies must have said in those pre-abolition days.

That was in 1844, and Smith and Whipper, both colored, had just opened their coal-and-wood yard at Broad and Willow Streets.

Neither was the laughing restricted to the women. The men joined in, too, when they saw the proprietors themselves shoveling coal.

"Why, I wouldn't do that if it were the last job in the world," some of them must have commented.

Smith and Whipper simply ignored them and continued to shovel their coal. They shoveled through five years—to 1849.

And they shoveled until their firm owned a large "fleet" of rafts with the necessary complement. The yard could scarcely hold the thousands of tons of coal and its 250,000 feet of lumber.

The guffawing ladies became snickering ladies.

BUY $10,000 IN STOCK

Smith and Whipper, now shoveling by proxy, dug into 22 merchantmen cars, running between Philadelphia and Baltimore. They acquired close to $10,000 worth of stock in the Columbia bridge.

Then, even the ladies' snickering stopped. Very shortly, it turned to solicitous smiles. The men stopped laughing, too.

But there was one man who hadn't laughed at them. He was Joseph Cassey, a barber, who had "an eye for business". Emerging from his shop at Fourth and Chestnut streets, occasionally, he went into "deals" with the coal-and-wood yard owners.

Smith and Whipper's notes for any amount of money were accepted everywhere. And so were Cassey's.

Cassey made his money discounting bank notes—buying at a low price, selling at a higher price. He bought property—property which became very valuable (said to be the most expensive real estate zone in Pennsylvania).

On his barbershop corner (Fourth and Chestnut, northwest) now stands the Provident Life and Trust company. Another property of Cassey's was the northwest corner of Eighth and Market streets, where Strawbridge and Clothier's now stands. Wanamaker's occupies the Chestnut street front.

Both Smith and Whipper came to Philadelphia as men. Cassey came as a youth. But that didn't make much difference. A mutual attraction caused them to "fall in together", and they became three of the city's richest men.

$10,000 Bequest Came Too Late

Chauffeur Dead 4 Months when Will of His Former Employer Is Approved

PHILADELPHIA—Dame fortune smiled too late on Thomas Crane, former chauffeur, when four months after his death, a bequest of $10,000 willed to him a year ago by his former employer, Mrs. Emma A. O'Neill, white, of York Road and Oak Lane Avenue, was approved in Orphans Court, Monday. Crane died last January.

Another bequest of $10,000, to Miss Mary Wood, a maid, was also approved, following litigation by relatives of the deceased white woman, who died on February 13, 1939.

The will was contested by Mrs. Carrie Mallon, white, sister-in-law of Mrs. O'Neill, who would have received $75,000 had a previous will been accepted by the court.

Called Incompetent

The last will, dated January 26, 1934; in which she left $10,000 each to her maid and chauffeur, was upheld by Judge Allen M. Stearne. Mrs. Mallon contested it on the grounds that Mrs. O'Neill was not mentally competent. Mrs. O'Neill, who was 79, was adjudged weak-minded three years after the execution of the contested will.

The court ruled that, at the time the second will was made, she had full knowledge of her financial affairs, and handled her inheritance from her husband, with ordinary business judgment.

OLDEST WILL BY NEGRO IS DISCOVERED

PHILADELPHIA.—(ANP) — The oldest will by a Negro in the United in Philadelphia, and perhaps the oldest will by a Negro in the United States, lies in the city hall here, made on the 22nd day of January, 1738, by Negro Cuffee.

Totalling $250 expressed in English money, the will lists an estate including apparel, an old bedstead, "a barrell of peese," and 3 barrell of pickle," among other things.

Written in the flowery handwriting of the 18th century, the will is valued at $500, according to Joseph T. O'Neill, chief clerk in the register of the wills office.

The paper was recently reenforced with silk at a cost of $50.

Oldest Will of An American Negro Found

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Written in the flowery handwriting of the 18th century, the will is valued at $500, according to Joseph T. O'Neill, chief clerk in the register of the wills office. The paper was recently re-inforced with silk at a cost of $50.

Stage Battle Over $11,000 Left To Bootblack And Nurse

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — (ANP) — Declaring Miss Abigail Stark incompetent, 19 persons, claiming relationship sought Monday to break the will in which the 80-year-old spinster left bequests of $10,000 to a colored nurse and $1,000 to a colored bootblack.

Miss Stark, who died last November, left an estate of more than $60,000 to be divided among her physician, her business solicitor and a number of friends. Mrs. Daisy Carter, the nurse named in the will, had been a friend of Miss Stark's for more than 20 years. Charlie Williams, bootblack, was the other colored beneficiary.

Relatives Seek To Break Stark Will

NASHVILLE, Tenn., (ANP)—Declaring Miss Abigail Stark incompetent, 19 persons, claiming relationship sought to break the will in which the 80-year-old spinster left bequests of $10,000 to a colored nurse, Mrs. Daisy Carter, who had served her 20 years, and $1,000 to a colored bootblack, Charlie Williams.

Miss Stark, who died last November, left an estate of more than $60,000.

CITY OF MEMPHIS BUYS IT; $83,000

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 15—Eighty-three thousand dollars worth of valuable property owned by Bob Church, political tycoon of national prominence, was bought in by the city and county governments at a tax-sale auction last Saturday.

The city and county bid over $83,000 for 12 pieces of property, most of it in the downtown district.

A bit surprised, but evidently unperturbed, Church was forced to release a stronghold he has had on the valuable property for many years. The state, city and county taxes on the property have been delinquent since 1915, it was stated. Every few years a "for sale" tag has been attached to the property, but through some mysterious manipulations Church has retained it, although he has never paid the taxes.

Authorative sources here state that Church has always been able to dodge the issue and escape losing his property through political influence. From all indications the prominent politician expected to keep his property this time. Interviewed last Sunday afternoon, Church appeared to be in the best of spirit and was not worried about losing his property.

A last minute statement by Lieut. George W. Lee, Church's best friend, may have been the reason for his composure.

Lee declared that the sale would not be held and the same old method would be used to save the property. He pointed out that certain legislations here forbid sale of property for delinquent taxes.

"It can't happen here," declared Lee.

But, despite everybody concerned, it did happen. Eighty-three thousand dollars worth of Bob Church's property will be divided between the city, county and state.

The city will receive about two-thirds of the amount raised for delinquent taxes and the county a third. State taxes must be paid by the city and county.

WAGE LEGAL BATTLE OVER $11,000 LEFT BOOTBLACK, NURSE

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Colored Servant Bequeathed $10,000 In Will Of White Philanthropist

SEP 20 1940

Mattie Lou Childress of Union City, Tenn., Had Worked for Coca-Cola Dealer Since 1920

The Plain Dealer

UNION CITY, Tenn.—Mattie Lou Childress, a servant in the home of the late Hugh C. Smith ,owner of three Coca-Cola bottling plants at Dyersburg, Martin and Union City, respectively, who died here at his home recently, was bequeathed in the will of Mr. Smith the amount of $10,000. The will was probated last week but the amount of the estate was not announced.

Kansas City, Kansas

Besides Mrs. Childress, others named in the will were Mrs. Laura Smith, wife of the deceased. Miss Kate Flack, Mr. Smith's bookkeeper and cashier, and the Firsst National Bank of Memphis was named as executor and trustee of the estate.

Mrs. Childress began working for Hugh C. Smith in 1920, and for a number of years he had given her a bonus each Christmas in recognition of her efficient service. This bonus began at $40 and was increased each year until for the past three years she had received $500.

A member of the Baptist Church of this city, Mrs. Childress is a good citizen and faithful church and club worker.

Mr. Smith was a great benefactor of humanity and free in his donations to the churches of the city. His last donation to a colored church here was in the sum of $150.00 to the Baptist Church.

Ex-Shrine Head Leaves $100,000

RICHMOND.—Jacob F. Wright, 731 Third Street, past imperial potentate of the Shriners, died last week. 3-9-40

He was a retired mail carrier and had been blind for twelve years and left an estate estimated at $100,000.

He succeeded Hiram Watty of Baltimore, the Shriners' second imperial potentate, in 1905.

Buried Saturday

Dr. Joseph T. Hill, pastor of Second Baptist Church, conducted the final rites on Saturday, assisted by Dr. W. T. Johnson, pastor of First African Baptist Church.

Honorary pallbearers were E. F. Johnson, Sr., Joseph Loving, Edward R. Carter, John T. Mosby, W. I. Hopkins and James T. Carter.

Committal services were conducted by Henrico Lodge of the A. F. and A. Masons, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery. wife, Mrs. Susie Scott Wright.